

Serial No. 10/657,339
Art Unit 2621

Docket PF020116
Customer No. 24498

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-17 and 14, previously pending in this application stand Finally Rejected. To place this application in better condition for consideration, applicants have cancelled claims 1-3, 5-7 and 14 and have added new claims 15-18 which patentably distinguish over the art of record for the reasons given below. Applicants respectfully request careful consideration of new claims 15-18.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 14

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 14 stand Finally Rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,739,860, in the name of Akio Hoshino et al. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-3, 5-7 and 14, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

In place of now cancelled claims 1-3, 5-7 and 14, applicants have added new claims 15-18 which are directed to the digital decoder illustrated in FIG. 4. As recited in claim 15, applicants' invention comprises a bi-processor decoder having a decoding processor and a video encoding processor. A capture module within the encoding processor selectively receives the digital stream and stores the received data in an associated memory. The memory transmits the stored data to a video encoder which generates a corresponding video signal destined for the connector. The video capture module possesses the ability to selectively capture data. Deactivation of the capture module causes prevents the encoding processor from considering the received data. Under such circumstances, the associated memory receives no new data. Therefore, the digital encoder will repeatedly generate a video signal representing the image previously stored in the associated memory. The deactivation of the capture module thus causes freezing of the image.

To better understand the differences between the Hoshino et al. patent and applicants' claimed decoder, applicants have reproduced newly submitted claim 15 with the claim elements missing the Hoshino et al. patent marked by strike through.

15. (new) Apparatus for decoding audio-video content comprising audio stream and video stream, comprising:

a decoding module (136) for decoding said audio-video content; and
a video encoding module (138) for encoding said video content,

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the decoding module comprising:

an input module (120) for receiving audio video content that includes audio and video streams; and for separating the video stream from the audio stream;

a video decoder (122) for decoding the video stream to yield decoded images, and for transmitting the decoded images to the video encoding module;

an audio decoder (124) for decoding the audio stream to yield decoded audio packets, and transmitting the decoded audio packets to the video encoding module;

the video encoding module comprising:

~~a capturing module (132) for selectively receiving the decoded images;~~

a memory (134) for storing said decoded images;

a video encoder (128) for encoding said decoded images stored in said memory; and

~~control means for activating or deactivating the capturing module, wherein deactivating the capturing causes a freezing of the images stored in said memory.~~

The Hoshino et al. patent does not disclose or suggest applicants' capturing module for selectively receiving decoded images. Rather, FIG. 6 of the Hoshino et al. patent discloses a decoding section (7c) which transmits images to an output section 7e. Nowhere in their patent do Hoshino et al. describe or suggest the ability to activate and deactivate the decoding section (7c) so that upon de-activation, the images in the memory section (7g) remain frozen. To the extent that any "freeze framing" occurs, Hoshino et al. makes use of a control section (5h) that controls the memory (5c), not the decoding section (7c). Thus, the absence of any disclosure in Hoshino et al. of activating or deactivating the capturing module as recited in applicants' claims 15 and claims 16-18, applicants newly submitted claims patentably distinguish over the Hoshino et al. patent.

Applicants' newly submitted claims 15-18 also distinguish over U.S. Patent No. 5,923,665 to Sun et al. as applied to reject previously pending claims 1-13. As discussed previously, Sun et al. discloses a process for controlling an audio/video digital decoder

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comprising the step of continuously acquiring a digital audio/video stream, the digital video stream being composed of a plurality of ordered sequences. Like the Hoshino et al. patent, the Sun et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest applicants' capturing module for selectively receiving decoded images, nor does the patent disclose applicants' control means for activating or deactivating the capturing module, wherein deactivating the capturing causes a freezing of the images stored in said memory.

Therefore, newly submitted claims 15-18 patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the accompany remarks, applicants solicit entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims. If, however, the Examiner believes such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6820, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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